

Commission for Children & Youth Minutes from the February 27, 2012

In attendance: Lynn Philips, Daniel Doak, Doreen O'Leary Jeff Drobner, Ellen Weyrauch, Dawn Egan, Jenna Klaassen (student), Emily Weyrauch (student)
Staff: Charlene Monn, Charlene Chiang-Hillman
Guests: Lois Pernice, Meghan Skelton, Gayle Weinstein

Meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM

Kristin Ferrara has submitted her resignation. She was thanked in absentia and Wished luck in her future endeavors.

- Need to postpone approval of January meeting minutes until March with Kristin Ferrara's resignation there were no copies were available for review.

During the 2010-11 budget cycle the position was changed to a 3-day week. With that change there will need to be some consideration of what type of individual will be hired to replace Kristin. (Discussion was halted until new business portion of meeting.)

- **Charlene Monn's Office Report**

- Halfway through with winter WOW
- Preparing for Spring and Summer programs
 - Spring session will begin April 23
 - This session typically has lower numbers, we will wait to see how registration progresses to decide if all programs can run.
 - Summer:
 - Not set in stone yet
 - We will try to offer programs to children in grades 1-9
 - Arts Enrichment Camp: new summer program for middle schoolers too young to work and too old for regular camp
 - Camps start 2 days before summer school
 - We can use the schools starting on June 28th
 - New drumming and rhythm component added to 1st-3rd grade camp
 - 9-2 camps for younger kids (need shorter days because kids get too tired)
 - 2 day cooking and science workshop
 - Mary Corcoran science teacher—CSI type program perhaps

- Shelley McConnell→ 2 week international cuisine program
 - Venturing through rhythm dance and art (Jean Dovo and Liz Ward)
 - Students may sign up for both this camp and the cuisine camp
 - 1 week yoga program
- Charlene discussed the need for a written policy for dismissal because of problem behavior
 - looking at what other towns are doing
 - students with special needs/behavior issues
 - definition of inappropriate/unsafe behaviors
 - clear consequences
 - we have had some success pairing special needs students with WHS volunteers, but this has to be done carefully and some special training may be necessary for these volunteers.
 - if the school requests that a special needs student participate in a WOW program, they will provide a para for that student.
- **Old Business**
 - In the absence of a director, Charlene will take over as point person with All-Star Driver
 - The high school is handling the pre-prom program. It does not appear that they will be requesting any funding from Youth Services this year.
- **New Business**
 - Family University – Lois Pernice, Meghan Skelton
 - We are trying to bring this highly successful program, done in some other local communities, to Weston.
 - The program will be open to students and families with a focus on high school and maybe some middle school issues
 - The goal of the program is to open dialogs on health, wellness and other relevant issues to this population
 - There will be several speakers, possibly including, Weston resident, Barbara Greenberg author of Teenager as a Second Language.
 - There will be two panels followed by a dinner with one more panel after dinner. Some panels will be student run.
 - The after dinner panel will be collaborative to discuss issues with both parents and students together.
 - A motion was made by Dawn Egan and seconded by Jeff Drobner to have Youth Services contribute up to \$3,000 to underwrite one of speakers for the evening. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - There was further discussion about how the event will be promoted.
 - Youth Services has offered to provide registration for Family U through our website.
 - Meghan or Lois will return in March to update us on progress.

- Job Opening
 - The current job description for the Director's position was distributed to the Commission. Everyone was asked to review it and come to the March meeting prepared to discuss and develop a new description to help meet the current needs of the Department.
 - Discussion over what is necessary for this position
 - Someone with social work ability to handle town problems?
 - Need to define the Commission's role going forward
 - Parent programs are not well attended anymore
 - Proactive as opposed to reactive
 - Need substance abuse counselor
 - Need help with attendance issues
- At 6:37 a motion was by Jeff Drobner and seconded by Ellen Weyrauch to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Weyrauch
Student Commissioner